



Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution

Public participation in international forums

Promotion of the Principles of the Aarhus Convention

in International Forums

27 February 2014





Outline

1. **Access to information**
2. **Public participation**
3. **Access to justice**
4. **Challenges and forthcoming activities**





1. Access to information

Articles on public awareness:

- 1998 Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (article 6) and its amendment adopted in 2009
- 1999 Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol) (article 5) and its amendment adopted in 2012





1. Access to information:

a) Documents

- **Official and informal documents** of session of following subsidiary bodies available on CLRTAP homepage:
 - Executive Body
 - Working Group on Strategies and Review
 - Working Group on Effects/EMEP Steering Body

<http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/welcome.html>

- **Data and information by the Convention centres** available online

- E.g. National inventory reports available at the Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections:
www.ceip.at



1. Access to information:

UNECE » [Environmental Policy](#) » [Treaties](#) » [Air Pollution](#) » Air Pollution - Home

Environmental Policy - Home

Air Pollution - Home

- » About Us
- » Convention bodies
- » Amended Protocols
- » Guidance documents and other methodological materials
- » Capacity building activities
- » Meetings and Events
- » Publications
- » Contact us

Air Pollution - Home



Since 1979 the UNECE [Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution](#) has addressed some of the major environmental problems of the UNECE region through scientific collaboration and policy negotiation. The aim of the Convention is that Parties shall endeavour to limit and, as far as possible, gradually reduce and prevent air pollution including long-range transboundary air pollution. Parties develop policies and strategies to combat the discharge of air pollutants through exchanges of information, consultation, research and monitoring. The Convention has been extended by [eight](#) [protocols](#) that identify specific measures to be taken by Parties to cut their emissions of air pollutants.

The [classification by the International Agency for Cancer Research of air pollution as carcinogenic](#), it causing lung cancer and being positively associated with bladder cancer, demonstrate the need for urgent action.

Recently, the Convention's three latest Protocols have been amended, to address remaining environmental challenges, and the health effects of air pollution. [The Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone](#) (Gothenburg Protocol) was amended in 2012 to introduce emission reduction commitments for 2020 and beyond for multiple pollutants including sulphur, nitrogen oxides and ammonia. As the first international agreement, the amended Gothenburg Protocol further contains obligations to reduce the broader spectrum of short-lived climate pollutants, notably fine particulate matter incl. black carbon, as well as the ground-level ozone precursors nitrogen oxides and non-methane volatile organic compounds. As such, the amended Gothenburg Protocol directly addresses the linkages between air pollution and climate change. Immediate and enhanced action to reduce short-lived climate pollutants has the potential to reduce local climate change in the near term. The ["On thin ice" report](#) highlights the need for urgent action in this area. Amendments to the [Protocol on Heavy Metals](#) were also adopted in 2012 to introduce more stringent emission limit values for mercury, cadmium and lead and enlarge the list of emission source categories. [The Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants](#) was amended in 2009 to include seven new substances, revised obligations and

Meetings and Events

February							2014	
M	T	W	T	F	S	S		
					1	2		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
24	25	26	27	28				

[Long-term strategy](#)

[2012-2013 Workplan](#)

[2014 – 2015 Workplan](#)

[Rules of procedure](#)

[Expert Opinions](#)

[Can UNECE Initiatives on Air Pollution Pave the Way for Regional and Global Action?](#)





1. Access to information: b) Information sharing

[UNECE](#) » [Environmental Policy](#) » [Treaties](#) » [Air Pollution](#) » [Contact us](#)

Environmental Policy - Home

[Air Pollution - Home](#)

- » [About Us](#)
- » [Convention bodies](#)
- » [Amended Protocols](#)
- » [Guidance documents and other methodological materials](#)

[Capacity building activities](#)

[Meetings and Events](#)

[Publications](#)

[Contact us](#)

Contact us

SECRETARIAT

As stipulated in article 11 of the [Convention](#), the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe provides the secretariat for the Executive Body of the Convention. It does so within the ECE Environment Division:

Convention on Long-range Trans boundary Air Pollution

Environment Division

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Palais des Nations, 8-14, avenue de la Paix

CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Fax: +41 22 907 0107 / +41 22 907 0621

[Contact Form](#)

NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

Country	Focal Point
Albania	Ms. Laureta DIBRA Head Air, Climate Change and Chemical Sector Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration Durrresi Street, nr.27 Tirana Phone : +355 42 256 106 @: Laureta.Dibra@moe.gov.al
Armenia	Ms. Anzhela TURLIKYAN



2. Public participation

CLRTAP Rules of Procedure:

- **Any body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental,** which is qualified in matters covered by the Convention and which has informed the secretariat of its wish to be represented at a session as an observer, may be so admitted, unless at least one third of the Parties present at the session object
- **Observers may,** upon the invitation of the Chair, **participate in the proceedings of any session** in matters of direct concern to the body or agency they represent, unless at least one third of the Parties present at the session object
- Voting by Representatives of the Parties with the necessary credentials





3. Access to justice

CLRTAP Implementation Committee:

- Consists of 9 Parties to the Convention
- Report and recommendations available on website for Executive Body sessions once annually
- Committee shall ensure the confidentiality of any information that has been provided to it in confidence (Executive Body Decision 2012/25, para 7)





4. Challenges and forthcoming plans

- **Challenge:**

Technical nature of considerations in framework of CLRTAP

- **Enhancing communication and outreach:**

- Raise public awareness of the Convention and overall visibility of air pollution issues throughout the ECE region and beyond through press releases, publication of leaflets, articles and other materials
- Manage and improve the Convention's website as the main channel for communications to the public
- Raise awareness in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, through communication in Russian
- Promote awareness of the Convention with other MEAs and programmes





Thank you for your attention!

